Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh: An Inspiring Life of Courage, Struggle, and Service

Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh was a distinguished and valiant soldier of the Indian Army who played a crucial role in the **1971 India-Pakistan War**, which led to the creation of Bangladesh. A native of **Rajpur village in Siwan, Bihar**, he displayed extraordinary leadership and bravery on the battlefield, making a lasting impact on India's military history.

His life is not just a tale of one man's service, but an epic of **dedication, patriotism, and human values**. His journey from the quiet, rustic surroundings of Rajpur to the battlegrounds of some of India's most significant military confrontations is a story that must be told and retold.

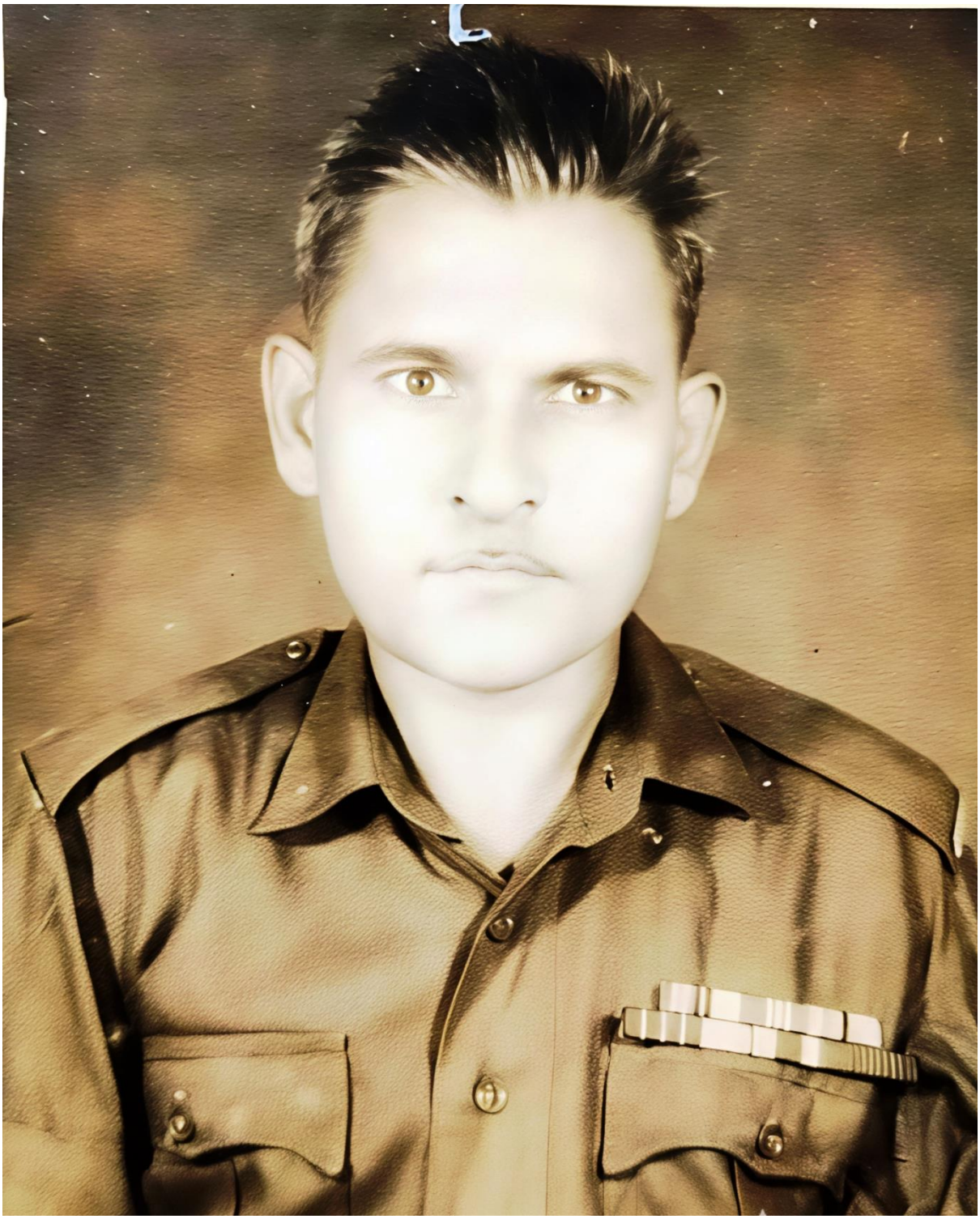
Early Life and Military Career

Born in **1939** in the serene and culturally rich village of **Rajpur in Siwan district, Bihar**, **Bipin Bihari Singh's** early years were marked by simplicity, devotion, and a burning desire to rise above the ordinary. Raised in a humble farming family, he grew up amidst the lush fields and traditional values of rural Bihar. His father, the **late Babu Kapoor Singh**, and mother, **Sringaro Devi**, were embodiments of hard work and dignity. They instilled in him a deep sense of **responsibility, honesty, and integrity**.

His early education began at **Middle School Rajpur**, where he emerged as a bright student and an energetic participant in sports. He wasn't just academically gifted but also deeply involved in the social life of his village. The close bonds he shared with childhood friends like **Ramayan Singh, Paras Singh,** and **Dharmnath Singh** formed a strong foundation for his life. These friendships endured the test of time and became a source of constant emotional support.

The food prepared by his mother, seasoned with love and simplicity, was his favorite. He often spoke about the warmth of family dinners, the aroma of fresh-cooked meals, and the quiet joy of home. His father's advice and guidance became the compass by which he navigated life.

After completing **10th grade at High School Rajpur**—a significant achievement during that era—he developed a deeper sense of purpose. For him, education was never just about employment; it was about empowerment, about making a difference.



Inspired by stories of national heroes and driven by an unwavering spirit of **patriotism**, Bipin Bihari Singh joined the **Indian Army in 1960**. This decision marked the beginning of a lifelong commitment to the nation. His rigorous training, mental resilience, and unwavering focus soon distinguished him. Over the years, he ascended through the ranks, eventually earning the prestigious title of **Subedar Major**, a position that symbolizes **leadership, trust, and unmatched service**.

Life as a Soldier

The life of a soldier is one of **discipline, sacrifice, and silent endurance**. For Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh, each day in uniform was a sacred duty. His postings took him across diverse terrains—from the icy mountains of the north to the sun-scorched deserts of the west. Regardless of the harsh conditions, he performed every task with unwavering commitment and excellence.

Known among his peers as a man of **few words but profound wisdom**, he believed in leading by example. His uniform was always immaculate, his conduct always exemplary, and his orders always clear. He became a father figure to many young recruits, mentoring them with patience and inspiring them with his calm demeanor.

He participated in the following key conflicts, showcasing his bravery and tactical prowess:

• **The 1962 Sino-Indian War**: A battle that tested India's resolve, and where he stood firm amidst unimaginable challenges.

• **The 1965 Indo-Pak War**: A fierce conflict where he proved his mettle on the western front.

• **The 1967 Nathu La and Cho La clashes**: Skirmishes that demanded precision and courage.

• **The 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War**: A momentous victory for India, and his most defining military contribution.

A Courageous Journey in the Indian Army

His military service was far more than a profession—it was a **calling**. Every battle he fought was not just for national borders, but for ideals—of **freedom, justice, and peace**. His leadership was exemplary, his decisions sound, and his bravery contagious. Fellow soldiers often looked to him for strength during the darkest hours of combat.

His rise to **Subedar Major** was not just a reward for years of service; it was recognition of his **character, leadership, and unshakeable devotion to duty**. In an institution where ranks are hard-earned, he stood out not only for his accomplishments but for the **grace and humility** with which he bore them.

Role in the 1971 India-Pakistan War

The **1971 war** remains one of the most pivotal moments in South Asian history. It was not just a war—it was a movement for **liberation, justice, and human dignity**. Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh played a critical role in this historic event.

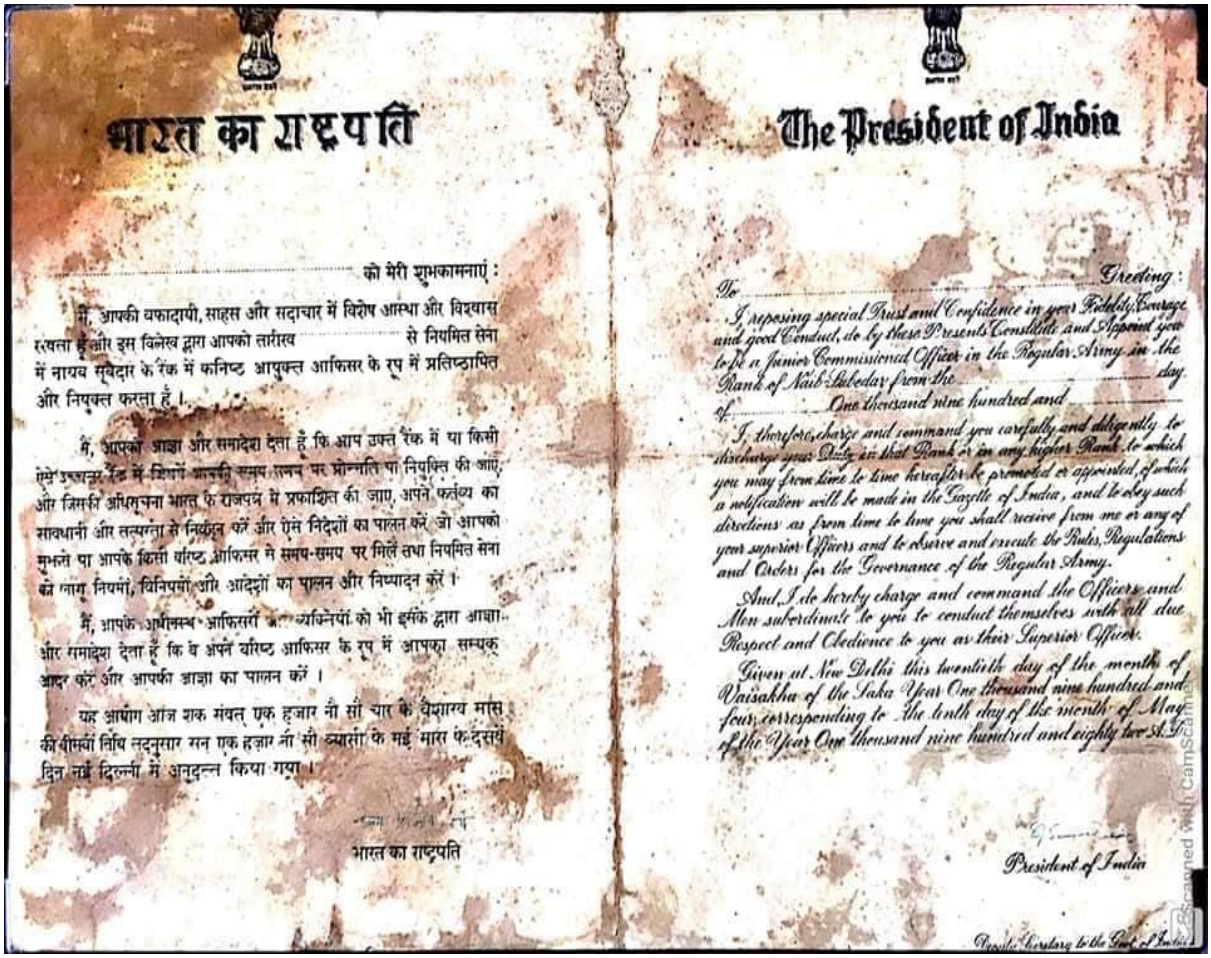
Key Contributions:

• **Bravery on the Eastern Front**: He was involved in crucial operations that gave India a strategic advantage. Amidst bullets and bombings, he held his ground and inspired his troops.

• **Leadership in the Battle for Dhaka**: He led critical missions that ultimately culminated in the capture of Dhaka. His cool-headed strategies and relentless spirit paved the way for victory.

• **Ensuring India's Victory**: The unconditional surrender of **93,000 Pakistani soldiers** was a direct result of heroes like him, who gave their all for the mission. It was one of the largest military surrenders after World War II.

His actions not only brought **military success** but also **honor and dignity to India**. His stories of courage are etched in the memories of those who served alongside him and continue to be recounted as part of India’s military legacy.



भारत का राष्ट्रपति

..... को मेरी शुभकामनाएं :

मैं, आपकी वफादारी, साहस और सदाचार में विशेष आस्था और विश्वास रखता हूँ और इस विलेख द्वारा आपको तारीख ..... से नियमित सेना में नायब सूबेदार के रैंक में कनिष्ठ आयुक्त आफिसर के रूप में प्रतिष्ठापित और नियुक्त करता हूँ।

मैं, आपको आज्ञा और समादेश देता हूँ कि आप उक्त रैंक में या किसी ऐसे उच्चतर रैंक में जिसमें आगे समय समय पर पदोन्नति या नियुक्ति की जाए, और जिसकी अधिसूचना भारत के राजपत्र में प्रकाशित की जाए, अपने कर्तव्य का सावधानी और तत्परता से निर्वहन करें और ऐसे निदेशों का पालन करें जो आपको मुझसे या आपके किसी वरिष्ठ आफिसर से समय-समय पर मिलें तथा नियमित सेना को लागू नियमों, विनियमों और आदेशों का पालन और निष्पादन करें।

मैं, आपके अधीनस्थ आफिसरों और व्यक्तियों को भी इसके द्वारा आज्ञा और समादेश देता हूँ कि वे अपने वरिष्ठ आफिसर के रूप में आपका सम्यक् आदर करें और आपकी आज्ञा का पालन करें।

यह आयोग आज शक संवत् एक हजार नौ सौ चार के वैशाख मास की बीसवीं तिथि तदनुसार सन एक हजार नौ सौ बयासी के मई मास की दसवें दिन नई दिल्ली में अनुदत्त किया गया।

भारत का राष्ट्रपति

The President of India

To ..... Greeting :

I reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Fidelity, Courage and good Conduct, do by these Presents Constitute and Appoint you to be a Junior Commissioned Officer in the Regular Army in the Rank of Naib Subedar from the ..... day of ..... One thousand nine hundred and .....

I, therefore, charge and command you carefully and diligently to discharge your Duty in that Rank or in any higher Rank to which you may from time to time hereafter be promoted or appointed, of which a notification will be made in the Gazette of India, and to obey such directions as from time to time you shall receive from me or any of your superior Officers and to observe and execute the Rules, Regulations and Orders for the Governance of the Regular Army.

And I do hereby charge and command the Officers and Men subordinate to you to conduct themselves with all due Respect and Obedience to you as their Superior Officer.

Given at New Delhi this twentieth day of the month of Vaisakha of the Saka Year One thousand nine hundred and four, corresponding to the tenth day of the month of May of the Year One thousand nine hundred and eighty two A.D.

President of India

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Recognition and Honors

Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh's extraordinary service did not go unnoticed. In a solemn and proud moment, **then-President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy** personally honored him for his bravery. The recognition was a matter of immense pride for his **family, his village, and the entire state of Bihar**. It reaffirmed that his sacrifices were deeply valued by the nation he served.

Retirement and Continued Service

After an illustrious career, he **retired in 1986**. But for him, retirement was not the end—it was a **new beginning**. He redirected his energy towards improving life in his village. He became a **mentor, a guide, and a guardian** for many. He actively participated in social welfare activities and motivated the youth to dream big and serve the country in every way they could.

Life Rooted in Family and Village

Back in Rajpur, his life was centered around his **beloved wife Heerajhari Devi**, the unwavering support throughout his journey. Together, they built a home that stood for **values, discipline, and love**. His days were filled with **gardening**, which he found therapeutic. Every tree he planted was a symbol of **life, growth, and care**.

He was a man who respected **nature** and instilled this value in the younger generation. His efforts to promote **environmental awareness** in the village became a part of his second innings of service.

Family was his greatest pride:

• **His brothers**: Late Ram Badan Singh, Ram Binod Singh (retired teacher), and Ram Udar Singh.

• **His daughters**: Manju Singh and late Meena Singh.

• **His sons**: Akhilesh Singh and Bimlesh Singh.

• **His grandchildren**: Anshu Dikshant, Ankit Shriyansh, Krish, Soni, Shalu, Twinkle, and Chhoti.

Akhilesh Singh, his elder son, runs a medical laboratory in Raghunathpur - Siwan, and also works as a **general contractor**.

His bond with his **brother Ram Binod Singh's family** was equally strong. He cherished his nephews **Ajay Singh, Nirbhay Singh, and Rajesh Singh (Sonu)**, and nieces **Punam Singh and Rina Singh**.

Discipline, Simplicity, and Eternal Service

Even in retirement, his life remained a model of **discipline**. He woke up early, maintained his routines, and followed a strict timetable. He was a familiar figure walking through the village in the morning, greeting everyone with a kind nod.

He had a **passion for cricket**, often listening to match commentaries on the radio. He stayed updated with **current events**, often discussing politics and national affairs with insightful perspectives. Despite his accolades, he lived humbly. He never boasted of his achievements, and this **humility only increased the respect** people had for him.

He became a **moral compass** for the entire village. Children looked up to him, elders sought his counsel, and youth followed his path.

A Memorable Legacy and Bihar's Pride

On **June 7, 2015**, at the age of **77**, Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh left this world, but he left behind an **eternal legacy**. His life remains a shining example of what it means to **serve selflessly and live purposefully**.

He is remembered not just as a soldier, but as a **protector, guide, and pillar of strength**. Bihar, the land of freedom fighters, philosophers, and reformers, added another feather to its cap through his life. Like **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** gave India its democratic foundation, **Bipin Bihari Singh defended it with valor**.

His grandson **Anshu Dikshant** dreams of walking the noble path carved by his grandfather. Likewise, **Abhishek Singh (Roshan)**, who joined the **CRPF** in the year Subedar Major passed away, carries his ideals as a guiding light.

Legacy and Lessons

His true legacy lies in the **values he passed down**—honesty, humility, discipline, and service. He taught that **greatness lies not in accolades but in character**. Even in old age, his upright posture and sparkling eyes spoke volumes about his inner strength.

He was a **living school of values**, and his words still echo in our hearts. The lessons he taught continue to shape our lives and give us strength in moments of doubt.

An Eternal Inspiration

The life of Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh is not just history—it is **heritage**. He is an **eternal source of pride and inspiration**. His life will continue to motivate generations to come, proving that **true heroes live in the hearts of people long after they are gone**.

Closing Words about my Grandfather

As I look back, I realize that my **grandfather** was more than a soldier—he was a **symbol of strength, simplicity, and sincerity**. His presence in our lives was a blessing beyond measure.

This book is not just about a **man in uniform**. It's about a **legacy of character** that continues to live within us. It's about **resilience, kindness, humility, and courage**. I miss him dearly, but I carry him in my thoughts every single day.

My **Baba**, late **Subedar Major (Retd.) Bipin Bihari Singh ji**, was a **self-made man**. When I remember him and think about him, I feel immense pride to be a part of his family. The **struggles he faced in his life are incomparable**. They forged a **spirit of steel** in him, which he passed on to all of us.

Even though my grandfather is no longer with us, he remains very close to all of us. His memories are still fresh in our minds, and he continues to be a **source of inspiration** for our family.

This book is lovingly dedicated to the memory of **Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh**, my grandfather, whose **life of valor, dignity, and service** continues to inspire generations. To the **countless soldiers** who have stood bravely for our country and their families who stand behind them — **this is for you**.

Acknowledgments

I would like to extend my **deepest gratitude** to my family for their **unwavering support and love**. Special thanks to my **father Akhilesh Singh** and my **chhote baba Ram Binod Singh** for sharing their memories, insights, and stories of Baba. My heartfelt appreciation goes to all my **cousins and relatives** who helped recall moments that shaped this tribute. Lastly, to the **readers who believe in the power of stories** — thank you for keeping his memory alive.

Preface

This book is a tribute to the **extraordinary life** of my grandfather, **Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh**. A **man of few words and immense discipline**, he served India with **honor and dignity**.

Through this short book, I have tried to capture his journey—from the **dusty fields of Bihar** to the **barracks of the Indian Army** and back to the **quiet life of a retired soldier**.

His life taught us the meaning of **resilience, pride, and values**. This book is my **humble way** of keeping his memory alive for future generations.

When I first began thinking about writing a tribute to my grandfather, I was filled with a **deep sense of responsibility**. **Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh** was not just a man in uniform — he was a **pillar of strength, honor, and humanity**. This book aims to capture his legacy not only as a **soldier**, but as a **father, husband, and village elder**. It is my **humble attempt to preserve his story and the values he lived by**, for future generations.

Foreword

By Akhilesh Singh

My father was a man of **great conviction and compassion**. Though he bore the title of **Subedar Major**, he never let **ranks or accolades define him**. His **legacy is a treasure**, and I am proud to see it honored through these pages. This book is not just about **battles fought on fields**, but also about the **everyday victories of character and love**.

Timeline of Service

• **1939**: Born in **Rajpur, Siwan, Bihar**
• **1960**: Joined **Indian Army**
• **1962**: Participated in **Sino-Indian War**
• **1965**: Fought in **Indo-Pak War**
• **1967**: Engaged in **Nathu La and Cho La conflicts**
• **1971**: Played major role in **India-Pakistan War** and **liberation of Bangladesh**
• **1986**: Retired as **Subedar Major**
• **2015**: Passed away, leaving behind a **legacy of valor and integrity**

Glossary of Military Terms

• **Subedar Major**: Senior-most Junior Commissioned Officer in the Indian Army
• **JCO (Junior Commissioned Officer)**: Mid-level military rank above Non-Commissioned Officers
• **Battalion**: A large body of troops ready for battle
• **Eastern Front**: Refers to India’s eastern border during the 1971 war with Pakistan

Reflections from Family Members

“**He was our silent protector. He never raised his voice, yet his presence commanded deep respect.**” — *Manju Singh, daughter*

“**Baba taught me that being a man is not about strength, but about standing up for what's right.**” — *Anshu Dikshant and Ankit Shriyansh, grandsons*

“**His garden was a metaphor for his life. He nurtured everyone around him with care and patience.**” — *Soni and Shalu, granddaughters*

Legacy and Impact

Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh's legacy is deeply etched in the hearts of those who knew him. His **commitment to justice, fairness, and national pride** has inspired many within and beyond the family. His elder son, **Akhilesh Singh**, follows in his footsteps by serving the community through **healthcare and construction**. His grandson **Abhishek Singh (Roshan)** chose a path in the **CRPF**, directly influenced by the stories and values shared by his grandfather.

Beyond family, his name is remembered in **Rajpur village** with reverence. Children are often told stories of **Bipin babu's courage**. Every **Independence Day** and **Republic Day**, his memory is honored with **flag hoisting and tributes** in local schools.

Inspirational Quotes He Lived By

"**Service before self.**"
"**A soldier's strength lies not in his weapon, but in his heart.**"
"**Discipline is the backbone of a meaningful life.**"
"**Let your work speak for you, not your words.**"

Author’s Biography

Anshu Dikshant is a proud grandson of **Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh**. Born in **Siwan, Bihar** and currently working in **Mumbai**, Anshu holds **deep-rooted respect for the Indian armed forces**. He cherishes the **values passed down by his grandfather** and aims to **preserve and share the stories of India’s unsung heroes**. This is his **book**, written not as an author, but as a **grateful grandson**.

Closing Reflections

The completion of this book is more than a **tribute** — it is a **promise**. A promise to keep the spirit of **Subedar Major Bipin Bihari Singh** alive in our lives, actions, and thoughts. His was a life of **silent dignity and relentless service**. This story may be bound in pages, but its **impact lives in hearts**. I have plan to start an **orphanage in my Baba's name** in future.

As I look back, I realize that my grandfather was more than a soldier—he was a **symbol of strength, simplicity, and sincerity**. This book is not just about a **man in uniform**. It’s about a **legacy of character** that continues to live within us.
I miss him dearly, but I carry him in my thoughts every single day.

We salute you, Baba.

— Anshu Dikshant

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